

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-06 DHA-02

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

PC-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /109 W

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P 291500Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2031

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BUKAVU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

RUTAVCQXAMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 3158

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/BCJ4-7 PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0222

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, MOPS, MPOL, PINS

SUBJECT: FUTURE REPRESSION IN SHABA

1. SUMMARY: IN IMPORTANT STATEMENT ON APRIL 28, PRESIDENT
MOBUTU SAID THERE WOULD BE NO SUPPRESSION OF LUNDA TRIBESMEN IN
COMING CAMPAIGN TO REOCCUPY INVADED AREAS. DESPITE STATEMENT,
THERE HAVE BEEN TO DATE REPEATED REPORTS OF HARASSMENT AND OTHER
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BRUTALITIES DIRECTED BY FAZ AGAINST ZAIRIAN POPULATION NOT ONLY
IN AREAS NEAR FRONT BUT ALSO IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AT GREAT
DISTANCES FROM CONTESTED REGIONS. WHILE PRESIDENT MOBUTU
SEEMS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF NON-REPRESSIVE CAMPAIGN
IN FUTURE, THERE ARE STRONG INDICATORS BASED ON FAZ PERFOR-
MANCE TO DATE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR OFFICERS TO
IMPOSE NEEDED DISCIPLINE OVER TROOPS TO CONTROL THEIR FUTURE

ACTIONS. END SUMMARY

2. APRIL 29 MJUMBE FEATURES ARTICLE ON INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO DELEGATE-GENERAL OF AGENCE ZAIRE PRESSE. IN INTERVIEW MOBUTU PROMISED THERE WOULD BE NO REPRESSION OF LUNDA TRIBESMEN BY FAZ, DESPITE FACT THAT LUNDA ALLEGEDLY IN MAJORITY AMONG EX-KATANGA GENDARMES. MOBUTU STRESSED THAT LUNDA ARE LOYAL ZAIRIANS, THAT HE HAS IN PAST PERSONALLY PROVIDED MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LUNDA VIA REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THEIR CHIEF, THE MWANT YAV, AND THAT LUNDA ASSURED OF PRESIDENT'S PROTECTION JUST AS ARE ALL ETHNIC GROUPS IN ZAIRE. MOBUTU SAID POPULATION WHICH HAD FLED NOW RETURNING TO KANZENZE, NASONDOYE AND KAYEMBE WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF FAZ.

3. ARTICLE STATES INTERVIEW GIVEN TO RESPOND TO "UNJUSTIFIED FEARS" VOICED BY FOREIGN, NOTABLY BELGIAN, PRESS. WHILE THIS MAY BE SO, FOREIGN PRESS NOT ALONE IN EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER FAZ BEHAVIOR NOT ONLY IN RECAPTURED AREAS, BUT ALSO IN COMMUNITIES FAR FROM FRONT WHERE LOCAL POPULATION IS SUSPECTED OF SYMPATHY FOR INVADERS. CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED VARIETY OF ALLEGATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS OF ATROCITIES AND SEVERE HARASSMENT

OFTEN BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY DIRECTED ABAINST LUNDAS BY FAZ TROOPS. IN GENERAL, REPORTS HAVE BEEN SHORT ON DETAILS, SUCH AS LOCATION, NUMBERS AND CAUSE. STORIES OFTEN, BUT NOT ALWAYS, HAVE COME FROM PEOPLE WHOSE HOSTILITY TO THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT AND FAZ MAKES THEM LESS-THAN-OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS, BUT SAME BASIC STORIES REPEATED WITH SUCH FREQUENCY FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT THEY CANNOT KNI OVERLOOKED. NOW THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FAZ HAS TAKEN THE OFFENSIVE, NUMBER OF SUCH REPORTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE.

4. A LUNDA, WHO IS ONE OF LUBUMBASHI'S LEADING ZAIRIAN BUSINESSMEN, HOLDER OF ORDER OF LEOPARD AND NOTABLY SYMPATHETIC TO GOVERNMENT, VISITED CONSULATE APRIL 26 TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER FELLOW TRIBESMEN IN COMBAT AREA. CITING RECENT SPEECH BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI VC WHICH HE SAID FAZ HAD FOUND OVER A HUNDRED CHILDREN IN BATTLE AREA WHO HAD BEEN DESERTED BY THEIR PARENTS, LUNDA LEADER INDIGNANTLY DENIED THAT LUNDA LJ OR OTHER ZAIRIAN WOULD ABANDON CHILDREN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SAID GENERAL FEAR IN LUBUMBASHI IS THAT PARENTS WERE SLAUGHTERED BY FAZ. THOUGH THIS IS OF COURSE HIGHLY SPECULATIVE, IT IS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE OF SPEAKER'S COMMITMENT TO MOBUTU GOVERNMENT.

5. ONE INCIDENT OF FAZ VIOLENCE IN KAMINA AREA HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY SEVERAL INDEPENDENT SOURCES, SO LITTLE DOUBT REMAINS ABOUT ITS OCCURENCE. FAZ IN TOWN OF KABONDO

DIANDA (50 MILES SOUTHEAST OF KAMINA) KILLED LUBA TRIBAL CHIEF OF REGION BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED HE BEING UNCOOPERATIVE. INCENSED POPULATION RETALIATED ALLEGEDLY BY MASSACRING SEVERAL FAZ SOLDIERS AND TEARING UP PORTION OF RR LINE.

6. CONSULATE HAS OBTAINED COPY OF APRIL 20 LETTER WRITTEN BY BELGIAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARY IN KBLWEZK AFTER VISITING

KANZENZE. MISSIONARIES IN ZAIRE OFTEN BIASED OBSERVERS, AS ALMOST ALL ARE ANTI-REGIME AS RESULT OF GOVERNMENT NEGLECT AND MISTREATMENT OF POPULATION IN OUTLYING AREAS, BUT ALLEGATIONS IN LETZER SIMILAR TO THOSE HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES. RELEVANT PORTION OF LETTER'S TRANSLATED TEXT READS "KOLWEZI APRIL 20... WE ARE FINE, BUT THE SITUATION IS MUCH MORE SERIOUS FOR THE BLACK POPULATION, WHICH IS SUFFERING BADLY. EACH DAY PEOPLE ARE DISAPPEARING, EXPLOITED, OFTEN KILLED. THE CONDUCT OF THE ARMY IS BESTIAL. THEY ARE EXHIBITING MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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CRUELTY THAN ANY ARMY IN A DEFEATED OR OCCUPIED TERRITORY. FORTUNATELY, THIS MORNING SEVERAL GECAMINES BUSES LEFT FOR TENKE FILLED WITH SOLDIERS. THIS WILL PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME RELIEF FOR THE POPULATION HERE. THIS MORNING I WAS IN KANZENZE. THE VILLAGES ALONG THE ROAD ARE COMPLETELY ABANDONED. THE INHABITANTS OF THE SEMINARY OF KANZENZE ARE THE ONLY ONES STILL THERE. IN A VILLAGE TWO KILOMETERS FROM KANZENZE, THE POPULATION WAS ASSEMBLED FOR A MEETING. THEN ALL OF THEM WERE SHOT WITH RIFLES, MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, ON THE PRETEXT THAT THEY WERE COLLABORATORS. THE PEOPLE WHO FLED INTO THE BUSH ARE ALSO HARASSED BY THE

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P 291500Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2032
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0222

SOLDIERS, WHO STEAL THE FEW THINGS THEY HAVE: GOATS, CHICKENS, PIGS, RADIOS, RECORD PLAYERS, AND EVEN THEIR FURNITURE WHICH THEY USE TO MAKE FIRES. IN THIS SAME FASHION THEY BURNED THE CHAIRS OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL OF KANZENZE WHERE THEY WERE STAYING..." CONSULATE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT MASSACRE DESCRIBED BY PRIEST OCCURRED, BUT HAS HEARD THE SAME GENERAL STORY FROM SEVERAL SOURCES.

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7. HARASSMENT OF POPULATION ALONG ROADS AND IN ZAIRIAN SECTIONS OF LARGER TOWNS HAS BEEN COMMON SINCE INVASION BEGAN. TRAVELLERS ON ROAD ARE ROUTINELY HELD UP AND SOMETIMES BEATEN IF APPROPRIATE GIFT NOT FORTHCOMING. NIGHT TIME SECURITY PATROLS IN LUBUMBASHI, KOLWEZI, AND KAMINA OFTEN SPEND THE HOURS OF DARKNESS GOING FROM ONE HOUSE TO THE NEXT ON INSPECTIONS, EXTORTING WHAT THEY CAN. MORE THAN 100 LUNDAS ARE REPORTED TO BE UNDER ARREST IN KOLWEZI AS POSSIBLY SYMPATHIZERS WITH INVADERS. WIDESPREAD STEALING FROM POPULATION AND LOOTING HOMES BEGAN IN KAFAKUMBA AND KANZENZE JUST BEFORE INVADERS THREATENED AREAS, NOT DURING REOCCUPATION CAMPAIGN. SINCE NONE OF THESE INCIDENTS RELATED TO BATTLE ACTIVITIES, BEHAVIOR SEEMS ATTRIBUTABLE TO GENERAL LACK OF DISCIPLINE ON PART OF FAZ RATHER THAN TO DESIRE FOR RETRIBUTION AGAINST INVADERS.

8. FEEDING FEARS AMONG POPULATION OF FAZ REPRISALS FOR ALLEGED CIVILIAN DISLOYALTY HAS BEEN SERIES OF SPEECHES BY REGIONAL COMMISSIONER ASSUMANI POUNDING HARD AT THEME OF

COMPLICITY OF POPULATION WITH INVADERS AND NECESSITY TO ROOT OUT TRAITORS AND FIFTH-COLUMN COLLABORATORS. FEELING IS THAT SUCH SPEECHES ENCOURAGE FAZ MALTREATMENT OF POPULATION AND MAY SIGNAL A FUTURE POLICY OF SYSTEMATIC REPRESSION. THERE IS CERTAIN IRONY TO ASSUMANI POSTURE AS SPOKESMAN OF VIGILANCE SINCE HE HAS BEEN PRIMARY MODERATING INFLUENCE AGAINST FAZ EXCESSES. ONE EXPLANATION IS THAT HE MUST TAKE STRONGEST POSSIBLE OFFICIAL STAND TO PROTECT HIS OWN POSITION. FOR IT WAS ASSUMANI WHO IN RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS OF FAZ ROBBERIES AND BEATINGS LATE LAST YEAR IN LILOLO AREA, ORDERED ARMY GARRISON WITHDRAWN FROM TOWN AGAINST WISHES OF HEAD OF MILITARY REGION, THUS OPENING BORDER TO EASIER PENETRATION. MILITARY HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF ASSUMANI'S LOYALTY SINCE INVASION BEGAN. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW CLOSELY ASSUMNAI WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW PRESIDENT'S LEAD.

9. SEVERAL PROMINENT SHABANS (BOTH LUNDA AND NON-LUNDA) EXPRESSED TO CONSULATE THEIR FEARS THAT MOST IMPORTANT RESULT LIKELY TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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COME FROM INVASION IS REPRESSION OF LOCAL POPULATION IN ALL PARTS OF SHABA AFTER THE INVADERS ARE DEFEATED. EXPRESSION OF FEAR GENERALLY FOLLOWED BY REQUEST THAT U.S. USE ITS INFLUENCE TO MINIMIZE EXPECTED REPRESSION AND BLOODSHED.

10. JUDGING BY KNOWN ACTIONS OF FAZ IN AREAS NOT THREATENED BY INVADERS, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE LIKELIHOOD OF MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS IN REOCCUPIED COMMUNITIES. SUCH EXPECTATIONS OF FAZ ACTIONS ARE PROBABLY PRINCIPAL REASON ALL REOCCUPIED VILLAGES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED BEFORE ZAIRIAN MILITARY ARRIVES. PRESIDENT MOBUTU SEEMS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF NON-REPRESSIVE REOCCUPATION STRATEGY. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT HIS GENERALS WILL SEEK TO IMPLEMENT HIS DIRECTIVE, THERE REMAINS MAJOR QUESTION WHETHER OFFICERS HAVE SUFFICIENT DISCIPLINARY CONTROL OVER TROOPS TO PREVENT FUTURE BRUTALITIES. EVIDENCE FROM UNOCCUPIED TOWNS IS THAT THEY DO NOT.
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Message Attributes

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